



November 2006

## E-Newsletter

### Welcome to Issue #12:

**Inside Transportation News** is a vehicle for sharing relevant information with transportation and planning professionals and other National Park Service partners.

### Upcoming Conference on Managing Travel for Planned Special Events



A transportation-related [conference](#) will be held from November 29 - December 1, 2006 in Newport Beach, California. Co-sponsored by local, state and federal transportation agencies, the conference sessions feature practical tools for transportation and public safety professionals who manage large scale special events. Agenda topics include traffic control, Intelligent Transportation Systems applications, parking and pedestrian access, interagency communications, and more. Pre-registration ends on November 17.

### Refuge System Newsletter Focuses on Transportation – Sean Furniss, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



The July/August 2006 edition of [Refuge Update](#) highlights programs related to the Refuge System's transportation network. This issue features articles about road access, trails, byways, and habitat restoration. The National Wildlife Refuge System encompasses more than 4,800 miles of roads and over 2,500 miles of land and water trails.

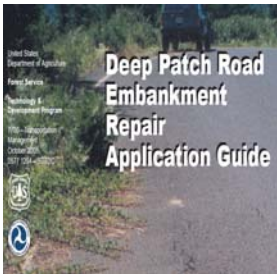
### "Impacts of Weather on Rural Highway Operations" – Western Transportation Institute



This [June 2006 final report](#) explores the relationship between severe weather events (i.e., rain and snow) and traffic volume and speed on rural highways. The purpose of the study was to gather baseline data and quantify the impacts. Comprehensive data is needed in order to evaluate the benefits of Intelligent Transportation Systems on improving rural highway operations. According to the Federal Highway Administration, adverse weather is the second largest cause of non-recurrent congestion.

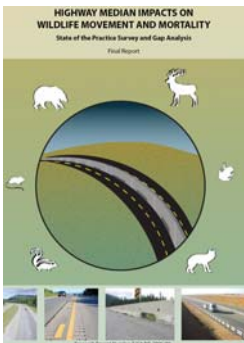
A growing number of states are using new Road Weather Information Systems to track and predict weather and road surface conditions. To learn more about it, read the article ["High-Tech Helps Tame Road-Weather Woes"](#) by Tom Kuennen, *Better Roads*.

## "Deep Patch Road Embankment Repair Application Guide" – Alan Yamada, U.S. Forest Service



The deep patch is a cost-effective technique for repairing and stabilizing sections of roadways damaged by subsidence or cracking. This [application guide](#) by Sandra Wilson Musser and Cliff Denning describes the performance of the deep patch, and provides a simplified design method and construction guidelines for engineers and technicians.

## "Highway Median Impacts on Wildlife Movement and Mortality: State of the Practice Survey and Gap Analysis" – Western Transportation Institute



Prepared for the California Department of Transportation, this [October 6, 2006 final report](#) provides a synthesis of literature and institutional information about highway median barriers and wildlife. The study summarizes the current and historical use of barriers, and knowledge of how these structures may fragment wildlife habitat or increase traffic-related mortality. The findings include a lack of field research on how different median barrier designs in varying landscapes may influence animal movements and habitat connectivity. Also, mitigative design solutions for barriers are mostly untested and there is insufficient information to assess environmental impacts.

## "Real-time Bus Arrival Information Systems Return-on-Investment Study" – Booz Allen Hamilton



This [August 2006 final report](#) on bus passenger information systems was prepared for the Federal Transit Administration's Office of Research, Demonstration and Innovation. The study was developed to help transit agencies with the development and implementation of Intelligent Transportation Systems. The focus is on developing and testing a methodology for determining the return on investment of real-time information systems for bus services.

**Inside Transportation News** reflects a compilation of research, reports, and opinions from a variety of authors and partners. The opinions, reports, and research may not reflect the policies and views of the National Park Service.